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No. 5 Hamilton Place, Boston, Massachusetts

WOMEN IN WAR

A Patriotic Entertainment in One Act

By
ESTHER GODSHAW

BOSTON
WALTER H. BAKER & CO.
1918

PS635
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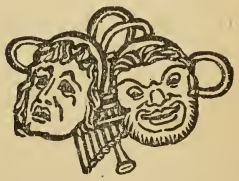
Women In War

CHARACTERS

THE READER.
HELEN OF TROY.
CLEOPATRA.
JOAN OF ARC.
QUEEN ELIZABETH.
POCAHONTAS.
MOLL PITCHER.
MARIE ANTOINETTE.
BARBARA FRIETCHIE.
THE RED CROSS NURSE.
COLUMBIA.



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AUG 13 1918

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NOTE

One of the marked influences of the Great War has been its effect upon the position of woman. The necessities of the time have called women to serve in many fields in which they never worked before. The present conflict is establishing a connection between women and war very different from those of other days. For woman has always been identified with the wars of the nations in some way, whether as cause of the conflict, sharer of battles or nurse of the wounded.

The entertainment outlined here has been planned to show the part some famous women have played in war. It should prove popular because it is tinged with that spirit of patriotism which is permeating all our plans. It is suggested that in preparing it the best results will be obtained if the reading of the lines is given to one person, the direction of the music to another and the posing of the tableaux to a third. If a large "picture-frame" is available, the pictures will be much more effective shown in that way. If it is not practical to pose the pictures, the subjects suggested here could be presented by lantern-slides because they have all been treated by famous artists.

Women in War

SCENE.—*The usual arrangement for exhibiting tableaux or any modification of this arrangement as suggested in author's note. The* READER *stands at the right of the platform or frame, as the case may be. The programme begins with music; "Auld Lang Syne" or any other popular air of similar suggestions should precede the Prologue. At the close of this selection the reading begins.*

PROLOGUE

READER.

In Mars' great game it is the man
Who dons the belt and gun,
Yet woman, too, has played a part
And helped in victories won.

There's lovely Helen whose beauty rare
The heart of Paris did ensnare
And caused the Fall of Troy.
There's Cleopatra, Queen of Nile,
Whose charms Marc Antony did beguile
Until his doom was sealed.
There's English Bess whose haughty pride
Her Spanish suitor's patience tried
Until his ships were sunk.
When mighty France lay stricken sore,
Her banner white a maiden bore,
The fair Joan of Arc.
There's Marie Antoinette of France
Whose love for frolic and for dance

Helped launch a bloody fray.
There's Pocahontas, Indian maid,
Who braved the red chiefs, unafraid,
To save bold Captain Smith.
There's Moll Pitcher who fired the gun
That made the British soldiers run
In Revolution days,
And Barbara Frietchie whose loyal breast
Cherished her flag, though all the rest
Had lowered their colors fair.

Now these women we will show
Who swayed the nations long ago.
We'll draw the curtain of the Past
To see the spell by beauty cast.

THE TABLEAUX

(*Before each picture there should be the reading of the lines and a bit of appropriate music which continues softly during the showing of the picture. The pictures may represent the heroine alone or in a group. Unless the posing of the pictures is in the hands of an experienced person, it would be advisable to use only one person in each picture.*)

TABLEAU I

HELEN OF TROY

(*Music—Any familiar classical selection, such as "Meditation," from Thais, or "To the Spring," by Grieg.*)

READER.

"No wonder such celestial charms
For nine long years have set the world in arms.
What winning graces, what majestic mien!
She looks a goddess and she moves a queen.
Yet hence, oh Heaven, convey that face
And from destruction save our Trojan race."

(Pope.)

(*In case the lady who represents* HELEN *does not feel able to justify this denotement of the character in her personal appearance, the following lines may be substituted.*)

"Small blame is theirs, if both the Trojan knights
And brazen-mailed Achaians have endured
So long so many evils for the sake
Of that one woman. She is wholly like
In feature to the deathless Goddesses.
So be it, let her, peerless as she is,
Return on board the fleet, nor stay to bring
Disaster upon us and all our race."
(Helen at the Scaean Gate. Iliad III.)

TABLEAU II

CLEOPATRA

(*Music—"O Celeste Aida," Verdi.*)

READER.

"Egypt, thou knew'st too well
My heart was to thy rudder tied by the strings,
And thou shouldst tow me after: o'er my spirit
Thy full supremacy thou knew'st, and that
Thy beck might from the bidding of the gods
Command me. You did know how much
You were my conqueror; and that
My sword, made weak by my affection, would
Obey it on all cause."
(Shakspere—Antony and Cleopatra. Antony speaks.)

TABLEAU III

JOAN OF ARC

(*Music—"Characteristic Songs and Dances of All Nations," Brown and Moffat, Price $2.00, gives many appropriate selections.*)

READER.

"The morn was fair
When Rheims reëchoed to the busy hum
Of multitudes for high solemnity
Assembled. The maid bore on high
Her hallowed banner to the sacred pile
And fixed it on the altar, whilst her hand
Poured on the monarch's head the mystic oil—
Then placed on Charles' brow the crown of France
And back retiring, gazed upon the king one moment,
Quickly scanning all the past,
Till, in a tumult of wild wonderment,
She wept aloud.
Thus the maid redeemed her country.
Ever may the All-Just give to the arms of freedom
Such success.

("The Crowning of the King."
Robert Southey.)

TABLEAU IV

QUEEN ELIZABETH

(*Music—English Morris Dance, Price, $1.00.*)

READER.

When Elizabeth in England ruled
Her many suitors she often fooled,
But most of all, Philip of Spain
Who sought her fickle hand in vain.

While she played the royal flirt
Spain's fortunes in Holland she did hurt.
Her sailors captured the Spanish gold
Till Philip sent the Armada bold.

You know well the heroic story—
Thus was begun England's naval glory.

TABLEAU V

POCAHONTAS

(*Music—One of Cadman's Indian Love-Lyrics, Price, $1.00.*)

READER.

"Who will shield the fearless heart?
Who avert the murderous blade?
From the throng with sudden start
See, there springs an Indian maid.

"Quick she stands before the knight.
'Loose the chain, unbind the ring.
I am daughter of the King
And I claim the Indian right.'"

(W. M. Thackeray.)

TABLEAU VI

MOLL PITCHER

(*Music—"America."*)

READER.

"Next day, on that field so hardly won,
Stately and calm stands Washington,
And looks where our gallant Greene doth lead
A figure clad in motley weed—
A soldier's cap and a soldier's coat
Masking her woman's petticoat.
He greets our Molly in kindly wise
He bids her raise her tearful eyes.
And now he hails her before them all
Comrade and soldier whate'er befall.
'And since she has played a man's full part,
A man's reward for her loyal heart,
And Sergeant Molly Pitcher's name
Be writ henceforth on the shield of Fame.'"

(Laura E. Richards.)

TABLEAU VII

MARIE ANTOINETTE

(*Music—"La Marseillaise"—The air of the Revolution.*)

READER.

When the starving French asked for bread
Said the foolish queen, "Give them cake instead."
'Twas just such folly and ignorance
Brought red Revolution to the realm of France.

You know her lovely hair turned gray,
She saw her King and her Prince led away.
Her native land joined Britain in costly war
That carried Revolution's torch afar.

TABLEAU VIII

BARBARA FRIETCHIE

(*Music—"The Star Spangled Banner."*)

READER.

"She leaned far out on the window sill
And shook it forth with a royal will.

"'Shoot, if you must, this old gray head,
But spare your country's flag,' she said.

"'Who touches a hair of yon gray head
Dies like a dog. March on,' he said."

(J. G. Whittier.)

TABLEAU IX

THE RED CROSS NURSE

(*Music—"The Battle Hymn of the Republic."*)

READER.

It is hard to tell in one short verse
The glorious rôle of the Red Cross Nurse.

She smooths the pillows of lads who fight,
Who offer their lives to maintain what's right.
And as we see her, let us recall
Clara Barton, the first of all.

TABLEAU X

COLUMBIA

(*Music—"Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean."*)

READER.

Columbia disdains to fight
But once she dons her armor bright
She will not leave the battle's fray
Until the Stars and Stripes hold sway.

TABLEAU XI

ENSEMBLE FINALE

(All the heroines)

(*Music—Medley of National Airs.*)

READER.

Now these women we have shown
Who swayed the nations long ago.
We've drawn the curtain of the past
And shown the spell by beauty cast.

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OLIVER IRVING, *manufacturer.*
HAROLD IRVING, *his son.*
VERNE GALE, *manager of the Westvale nine.*
POLLARD, *Irving's bookkeeper.*
PETE ADAMS, *colored pitcher on the Westvale nine.*
ALMIRA PURDY, *Tim's wife.*
MABEL REMINGTON, *Irving's stenographer.*
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Members of the ball team, villagers, etc.

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Four males, four females. Costumes, modern; two easy interiors. Plays an hour and a half. Mr. Brown exhausts all the resources of science, including smallpox and diphtheria signs, in an endeavor to keep away the admirers of his daughter whom he wishes to keep at home. He finally asks Dr. Chester, who is privately in love with her, to help him to dissuade her from becoming a trained nurse. The doctor does so by marrying her himself. Very clever and amusing; full of wit and of high tone. Strongly recommended.

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THOMPSON, *the Browns' butler.*
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NELLIE BROWN, *her daughter, a débutante.*
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THE COOK.
THE HAIR-DRESSER.
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MRS. SPARKLE.
SOPHIA SPARKLE, *her daughter; afterwards Madame Pichon.*
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